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POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY IN THE 1990 GENERAL ELECTION

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (Public Law 98-435) requires, as you know, that:

> Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the chief election officer of each State shall report to the Federal Election Commission, in a manner to be determined by the Commission, the number of accessible polling places in such State on the date of the preceding general Federal election, and the reasons for any instances of inaccessibility.

In order to facilitate the reporting process, we request that you complete this questionnaire and return it to the Federal Election Commission no later than December 31, 1990.

We also welcome, in addition to these items, any information you may care to provide regarding the efforts and measures your State has taken to date toward ensuring polling place accessibility for the elderly and handicapped.

Lee Ann Elliott

Chairman
Federal Election Commission

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INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Please read carefully and respond to each item in this questionnaire. Should you have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact the FEC National Clearinghouse on Election Administration at the address below or by toll free telephone on 800/424-9530.

For the purpose of this questionnaire, "INACCESSIBLE" refers to any polling place which by your determination, cannot or has not been made either permanently or temporarily accessible to the elderly and handicapped and therefore requires providing such persons a means or place of voting other than that commonly employed by the other voters in that precinct.

We recognize that any one of several factors might render a polling place inaccessible. But rather than list individual barriers or obstacles, we ask you instead to classify the reasons for inaccessibility into the general categories described under question five. If a place is inaccessible for more than one reason, please count each reason. (Thus, if it is inaccessible because of an unindented curb, an unramped entry stairway, and inadequate door widths, please mark categories 5B, 5D, and 5E accordingly.) The total number of reasons identified in question five will therefore probably exceed the total number of inaccessible places reported in question four. Yet such an approach will yield a kind of profile of where the problems lie.

Upon completing the questionnaire, please return it along with the material requested (envelope provided) to:

ATTN: Accessibility Officer
National Clearinghouse on Election Administration
Federal Election Commission
999 "E" Street NW
WASHINGTON DC 20463

1. Name, title, address, and telephone number of person completing this questionnaire:

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Please record the total number of polling places in your State. _____

3. Of the total number of polling places in your State, what number were evaluated to determine their accessibility? _____

4. Of those polling places which were evaluated, what number have been determined to be inaccessible, for whatever reasons, to the elderly or handicapped? _____

5. Of those places deemed inaccessible, what number reported inaccessibility because of: (If your State's accessibility criteria do not include one or more of these categories, simply mark N/A in that category.)

   A. Inadequate parking facilities? _____

   B. Obstructed walkways or pathways to the entrance of the building? _____

   C. Unramped stairs or inaccessible elevators inside or outside the building? _____

   D. Other architectural barriers? _____

   E. Barriers or limitations within the voting area itself? _____

   F. Other reasons not covered by the above categories? (Please describe)

   _____ _____

6. Of the polling places which were evaluated, how many provided instructions for voting printed in large type plainly displayed? _____

7. If the data reported above were compiled by means of survey, please respond to items A, B, and C below. If the data were gathered by some means other than a survey, please skip this question and describe that method in item 8 below.

   A. Of those polling places which were evaluated, what number were physically inspected on site? _____

   B. Generally speaking, who was involved in conducting the polling place surveys (your office, local election officials, poll workers, handicapped individuals or representatives, etc.)?

   _____

   C. Approximately when, relative to the general election day, were most of the surveys conducted?

   _____

8. Method of collecting data (if other than by survey (if you conducted a survey and answered question 7 above please skip to item 9 on the next page).

   _____

9. Since your last report in l988,

   A. How many polling places have been physically relocated to alternative, accessible facilities? _____

   B. In how many cases have permanent or temporary alterations been made in order to render a polling place accessible? _____

10. What means of voting in person on election day are made available to elderly or handicapped voters whose polling places are determined to be inaccessible?

_____

The questions below this box pertain to the activities of local election officials rather than to polling places. In order to establish percentages, however,

A. Please record the total number of local election jurisdictions in your State (counties, cities, towns, etc.) which are responsible for conducting federal elections. _____

B. Of that total, on how many have you obtained accessibility reports? _____

11. How many local jurisdictions provide, prior to election day:

   A. Public notice of the accessibility or inaccessibility of their polling places? _____

   B. Public notice of the assistance provisions under section 208 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965? _____

   C. Public notice of the procedures for voting by absentee ballot? _____

12. How many local jurisdictions provide a telecommunications device for the deaf in order to convey registration and voting information? (If this service is provided at the State level, please so indicate). _____

   A. Of those local jurisdictions, how many provide public notice of the availability of this device? (If State provides notice, please so indicate). _____